Investment in VSP

8441. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has proved less than productive and profitable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the plant is already using outdated steel making machinery; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to reassess the investments made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. In all capital intensive industries due to normal long gestation periods, cumulative losses do occur which are recovered over a period of time. The Company has made a cash profit of Rs. 55 crores (provisional) during the year 1994-95 i.e. the third year of integrated operation and is expected to make a net profit by 1997-98.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. VSP has implemented the State-of-the-Art technology in steel making and it has all the latest contemporary technologies installed.

Transfer of manpower to steel companies

8442. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised steel companies to transfer excess manpower from one steel company to another;

(b) if so, the reaction of steel companies thereto;

(c) whether steel companies have identified their respective labour compositions; and

(d) if so, the details of surplus and the deficits of labour in each public sector steel undertaking respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government have not advised steel producing companies to transfer excess manpower from one steel company to another.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant does not have surplus manpower. Considering international norms and labour productivity of steel industry in developed countries, Steel Authority of India Limited does not have surplus manpower. However, exact number and composition of surplus manpower would depend on work practices, process, technology and Annual Production Plan, etc. Rationalisation of manpower utilisation through proper planning, retraining of existing manpower and their redeployment in new areas of requirement due to modernisation, etc. have been taken up. Effort has also been made to achieve higher production without adding manpower so as to improve productivity.

Awards of contracts by CPWD

8443. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contracts which have been awarded by the CPWD, Sriniwas Puri, R. K. Puram sectorwise and Albert Square, New Delhi from April, 1994 to March, 1995, centre-wise;

(b) what is the nature of work assigned alongwith the amount allocated, work-wise;